

THE ILLINOIS-BASED WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES PLANS TO HOLD AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE KREMLIN IN SEPTEMBER, FUNDED BY ALLIES OF THE PUTIN REGIME

The World Congress Of Families Will Be Held At The Kremlin In September 2014. “In a sign of Russia's evolving stature among some U.S. social conservatives, the Illinois-based World Congress of Families plans to hold its eighth international conference at the Kremlin's Palace of Congresses in Moscow next year. Past conferences in Europe, Mexico and Australia have brought together opponents of abortion and same-sex marriage from dozens of countries. ‘The Kremlin used to be a no-no for conservatives,’ said Larry Jacobs, managing director of the World Congress. ‘We're going to redeem that building.’” [Associated Press, [7/1/13](#)]

- **Russian Oligarch Konstantin Malofeev Is Paying For Two Thirds Of The Moscow WCF.** “[Konstantin] Malofeev has pledged to pay for two-thirds of the 2014 World Congress, which will be held in Moscow this September. He funds the largest Orthodox charity in Russia, the St. Basil the Great Charity Foundation, which has an annual budget of more than \$40 million. He also owns a 10 percent stake in Rostelecom, Russia's largest telecommunications company and a Sochi Olympics general partner.” [Mother Jones, [2/21/14](#)]
- **One Of The Primary Funders Of The Moscow WCF Is Vladimir Yakunin, A Close Adviser And Possible Successor To President Putin.** “Those friends have proven helpful to WCF. ‘[Alexey Komov] has appointments, connections with the Orthodox Church and with several wealthy Russian leaders who are also Christians,’ Carlson explains. Specifically, two Orthodox Russian billionaires who are footing many of the WCF's Russia bills: Vladimir Yakunin, the president of the Russian railways and a Putin adviser (and possible successor), and Konstantin Malofeev, an Orthodox philanthropist who happens to be the founder and managing partner of Marshall, the firm whose conference room we're sitting in.” [Mother Jones, [2/21/14](#)]

The World Congress Of Families Is Funded By Some Of The Most Powerful Socially Conservative Groups In The U.S. “WCF has since put on conferences in Europe, Mexico, and Australia that have been attended by thousands. The group has deep ties with the most powerful organizations in America's religious right, including Concerned Women for America, Focus on the Family, and Americans United for Life. These groups and many others pay \$2,500 annually to be WCF partners, and some give additional funds—Focus, the Alliance Defense Fund, and the Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute each chipped in \$20,000 to help put on the 2012 World Congress in Madrid.” [Mother Jones, [2/21/14](#)]

Since 2010, The World Congress Of Families Has Hosted At Least Five Events In Russia. “Since 2010, WCF has helped host at least five major gatherings in Russia where American evangelicals put their views before Russian audiences. At a 2011 demographic summit in Moscow, the event's loaded two-day schedule of panels and speeches included just one 10-minute slot without an American presenter.” [Mother Jones, [2/21/14](#)]

CONCERNED WOMEN FOR AMERICA, A LONGTIME SUPPORTER OF THE WCF PULLED OUT OF THE MOSCOW CONFERENCE OVER THE SITUATION IN UKRAINE -- WILL OTHER AMERICAN GROUPS FOLLOW SUIT?

Concerned Women For America Pulled Out Of The Planned World Congress Of Families In Moscow Because They “Don’t Want To Appear To Be Giving Aid And Comfort To Vladimir Putin.” “Concerned Women for America has decided not to participate in a World Congress of Families meeting scheduled to be held in Moscow in September in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine, the organization’s President and CEO Penny Nance told BuzzFeed on Tuesday. Concerned Women for America is one of several major U.S. organizations opposed to abortion and LGBT rights that is affiliated with the WCF, an Illinois-based group that organizes summits of social conservatives from around the globe. September’s meeting has been billed by Russian organizers as the ‘Olympics’ of the international Pro-Life movement supporting the Natural Family,” and will hold events inside the Kremlin with the financial backing of a close ally of Russian President Vladimir Putin, Vladimir Yakunin. ‘We made the decision that we’re not going to Russia,’ Nance said. ‘I don’t want to appear to be giving aid and comfort to Vladimir Putin.’” [Buzzfeed, [3/11/14](#)]

The World Congress Of Families Declined To Respond To Calls To Cancel The Moscow Conference After The Russian Invasion Of Ukraine. “The U.S. organizers of a World Congress of Families summit to be held in the Kremlin in September show no signs of canceling over the Russian invasion of Ukraine. [...] Organizers of the conference did not respond to repeated inquiries early this week about whether they were considering canceling the conference in response to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. On Wednesday, the group’s communication director Don Feder published an article on the website the American Thinker under the headline, ‘Putin Doesn’t Threaten Our National Security, Obama Does,’ in which he defended Russia’s actions in Ukraine and suggested Obama would be wise to follow his example.” [Buzzfeed, [3/7/14](#)]

- **WCF Organizer Austin Ruse Of C-FAM Said “The Russian Government Has Been Quite Good On Our Issues” But The Situation In Ukraine “Muddied The Water.”** “The Catholic Families and Human Rights Institute’s Austin Ruse, one of the leading U.S. organizers of the Moscow event, said no decision had yet been made on whether to change plans for the September meeting. He implied that the timing of the meeting could be changed, however. ‘The only thing that is under discussion is when to have it based on the current geopolitical crisis,’ he said. Asked whether he was concerned about whether it had been a mistake to tie the event so closely to the Putin regime, he responded, ‘We have not thought that [during] this whole process because the Russian government has been quite good on our issues.’ However, he added, ‘Recent events have muddied the water.’” [Buzzfeed, [3/11/14](#)]

Major American Backers Of The World Congress Of Families From National Organization For Marriage To Focus On The Family Have Declined To Comment On Whether They Will Participate In The Moscow Event. “Now the question becomes whether other American groups will follow Nance’s lead. An organizing meeting for the event in October included Brian Brown of the National Organization for Marriage, Tom Minnery of Focus on the Family, Benjamin Bull of Alliance Defending Freedom, Justin Murff of the Christian Broadcasting Network and Austin Ruse of the Catholic Family & Human Rights Institute. A draft program for the event that was obtained by Buzzfeed includes speeches by ADF president Allan Sears, Focus president Jim Daly, Mike Farris of the Home School Legal Defense Association, Brown, Ruse and Murff, among others.” [Right Wing Watch, [3/12/14](#)]

IN THE FACE OF THE ESCALATING CRISIS IN UKRAINE, WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES LEADERS CALLED FOR PRAYERS FOR PEACE AND PLANNED A “PRO-FAMILY” MEETING IN KIEV

The WCF Called For Prayers For Peace In Ukraine. “World Congress of Families managing director Larry Jacobs today called on the international pro-life and pro-family network to pray for peace in Ukraine. ‘We are concerned about the crisis in Ukraine and pray for world leaders to come together to promote peace and resolve the conflict,’ Jacobs said. ‘We echo Pope Francis’s prayer, ‘that all parts of the country work to overcome misunderstandings and to build together the future of the nation.’ ‘We have many Christian friends and pro-family leaders of all faiths in all regions of Ukraine. We pray for their safety and their important work to promote authentic human rights, encourage the natural family, and protect human life from conception to natural death.’” [World Congress of Families Press Release, [3/13/14](#)]

WCF Said Plans Would Continue For A Summer 2014 Regional Conference In Kiev With “Leaders From Eastern Europe And Russia.” “Jacobs announced that planning for a special World Congress of Families event in Ukraine’s capital city of Kiev would continue. ‘After speaking with our friends and supporters in Ukraine, we are pleased to announce that they are continuing their efforts to organize a World Congress of Families regional meeting in Kiev this summer in collaboration with WCF leaders from Eastern Europe and Russia to promote the natural family as the fundamental unit of a free and stable society that transcends all political differences and the interests of nations and armies,’ he said.” [World Congress of Families Press Release, [3/13/14](#)]

WORLD CONGRESS OF FAMILIES OFFICIALS HAVE LONG CELEBRATED THE PUTIN REGIME

World Congress Of Families Managing Director Larry Jacobs Called The Russians “Christian Saviors To The World.” “Jacobs: The Russians might be the Christian saviors to the world; at the UN they really are the ones standing up for these traditional values of family and faith.” [TruNews, [5/30/13](#); AUDIO]

- **Jacobs Bragged About The WCF’s Involvement In Passage Of The Russian Anti-Gay “Propaganda” Law.** “‘Each Congress is unique,’ Jacobs observed. ‘Each has its own focus. Each emphasizes concerns of the host country as well as international issues. Each promulgates its own declaration. Besides the 2010 Demographic Summit, World Congress of Families involvement with Russia includes support for its child protection law, overwhelmingly enacted by the Duma in June.’” [World Congress of Families Press Release, [10/23/13](#)]

World Congress Of Families Spokesman Don Feder Claimed That Gay Soldiers “Armed With Vibrators” Are A Bigger Threat To American Security Than Vladimir Putin. “Putin is a power player who cares more about Russia’s national interests, and Russian minorities in his near abroad, than in that mythical force known as world opinion. Would that America had a president who cared more about our interests than in promoting globalism and the left’s social agenda. [...] Obama’s life style-friendly military -- If Putin doesn’t take us seriously, is it any wonder? [...] Perhaps we could deploy an elite unit, armed with vibrators, to the Crimea to counter Spetsnaz commandos.” [Don Feder Column, America Thinker, [3/5/14](#)]

The World Congress Of Families Hosted A Forum For US Lawmakers On What Conservative Americans Can Learn From Russia. “On June 30, Russia passed a ban on disseminating “propaganda of nontraditional sexual relations” to children, and is now considering a 7,500 percent increase in the divorce tax. On September 16, the Honorable Kevin Andrews, longtime pro-family member of the Australian House of Representatives, was named the Minister of Social Services—the largest budget area—in the new conservative Abbott government. Liberals have mourned such developments, but what might conservative Americans learn from Russia, Australia, and other nations about rebuilding a pro-family policy? Please join us for a Family in America Capitol Hill Symposium, a panel discussion of the question: ‘Family Policy Lessons From Other Lands: What Should America Learn?’ [World Congress of Families Capitol Hill Symposium Invitation, [11/15/13](#)]

World Congress Of Families Founder Allan Carson Said Russia Was “Trying To Put Decent Moral Society Back Together” After The “Libertine Approach To Sexuality” Infiltrated After The Fall Of Communism. “Carlson said he cuts Russia a lot of slack because the country is ‘trying to put decent moral society back together’ after both Communism and some of the ‘bad things’ – like a ‘libertine approach to sexuality’ – that poured into Russia from the west after the fall of Communism.” [Right Wing Watch, [11/15/13](#)]

World Congress Of Families Steering Committee Member Austin Ruse: “You Admire Some Of The Things They’re Doing In Russia.” “‘You admire some of the things they’re doing in Russia against propaganda,’ said Austin Ruse, president of the U.S.-based Catholic Family and Human Rights Institute. ‘On the other hand, you know it would be impossible to do that here.’” [Associated Press, [7/1/13](#)]